

Based on the number of improper actions (i.e. "slamming") by many sellers of long distance service, I can only surmise that the current anti-slamming rules and/or the penalties) are just not enough to protect consumers.

I would propose making the penalties MUCH more stringent "possible even compensating the consumer being harmed (slammed, overbilled, etc) with a substantial portion of a mandatory monetary forfeiture.

Apparently, selling long distance service is so profitable that the companies violating the rules feel that they can afford to absorb any minor penalties and continue operating with impunity.

I would suggest that "slamming" carry a hefty forfeiture of at least \$10,000 per occurrence (that is per individual consumer who was slammed).

Respectfully submitted 15 MARCH 2004